Issue 39: All Hail SU..(the team, not the fanzine)

StudsUp

The Oz Fans' Perspective

April
1999
36 Pages
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Name Australia's Most Important Coach!!!!

Inside:

Forming Fiction From Fiction...

(an insider's view of a tabloid Editors office)

Plus

Interview with a Formeroo.

This month: Frank Hearn.

Plus

Coaches Wanted in Victoria

Plus

1999 WYC Round – up

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Disclaimer:

This is a FANZINE, and should be viewed accordingly!!

The opinions expressed in these bits of paper have been developed through years of watching, reading, playing , thinking, sleeping and generally living soccer since Oz last qualified for the World Cup finals. Therefore, no offence or offence is intended and none should be taken. Read, digest, and get in touch.

Studs Up is-
Captain:
Kevin Christopher
First Mate:
Harry Georgiadis
Bosun:
Mr McPhee
Galley Slaves:
Greg Stock
Stevo
The Wolfman
Kasey Puyenbroek
Sean Brown
Andrew Howe

And all true fans everywhere around this great land!

Thanks!

To all the people who send us newspaper clippings and used match programmes and other assorted bits and pieces.

It all helps to provide a more balanced coverage of the game nationwide.

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As Simple As ABC?

South Melbourne's dispute with SocAus' over the televising of home matches has simmered over the course of the season, but the whole topic of live telecasts in the city of origin has been just waiting to boil. The temperature was increased somewhat when SM general manager Peter Filopoulos announced that after playing on Sundays since Noah rounded up the animals, South Melbourne suddenly wanted to play their biggest match of the year (so far) on a Saturday night. Naturally, Ericsson Cup general manager Stefan Kamasz was suitably unimpressed suggesting "It should be remembered that the grand final winner will have the chance to play in the World Club Championship and I cannot believe that Souths would want to jeopardise that."

While one journalist interpreted that as meaning Souths could be ousted from the league, the problem won't simply be solved by threats and counter-threats.

As in the club v country dispute, it will take a degree of concession from both sides to make the deal work, but for anyone to suggest that soccer should follow the AFL's lead and blackout matches in the city of origin is suggesting that the two sports have comparable public interest. Perth Glory are the only NSL team to be able to make such a claim, but even Studs Up would be forced to drink to excess before we could accept such a notion. So far South Melbourne to propose such a solution to the problem borders on grandstanding.

Earlier this season the ABC showed the Souths/Carlton match live from Bob Jane. The match was played in brilliant sunshine in a picturesque setting. The game ended 4-4 and was probably the best ninety minutes of advertising South Melbourne have ever had. Unfortunately the club don't see it that way.

For a club supposedly desperate to attract a wider support base it is a curious attitude.

3....2....1....BLANCO!

It can not have been easy for Raul Blanco. Since Venables' departure there has been endless discussion over who would be the best person for the job. Any 'name' coach who was unemployed was immediately touted as El Tel's successor, as if we had a blank cheque, which tended to do two things.

Firstly it swelled the hopes but ultimately deprived Australian fans of a realistic debate as to who should take on the job. Secondly, it hung Raul Blanco out to dry. It is all very well to let the world's leading coaches know there is a position vacant, but why do it on the grapevine? Surely not because we have no cash and can't afford to 'officially' advertise? One can just imagine the ad:

Wanted: One internationally renowned coach for a few days to take charge of players for marquee match. High profile essential. International success optional. Salary commensurate to attracting sponsorship.

Given the criteria, it was hardly surprising the grapevine fell silent. In the end, SocAus could play the only card they had and were forced to appoint Blanco, although when they actually did this is still difficult to pinpoint. We certainly don't remember any press conference where Blanco outlined his plans for June 12, although it was obviously before April 27 when Raul announced his 20-man squad. Given the prestige of such a position, it was a sloppy way of doing things.

SECOND DIVISION....

Harry Georgiadis questions the viability of the proposed

Joe Brondolino's appointment to the Soccer Australia board (replacing Don Di Fabrizio) has meant that the push for the introduction of an NSL second division is gaining greater momentum. At face value, promotion/relegation seems a logical way of introducing new, ambitious clubs into the league while allowing non-performing clubs to slide into obscurity. Promotion/Relegation is soccer's version of natural selection. In Victoria, once mighty Heidelberg United have been relegated to the Victorian State League and been overtaken by South Dandenong who have risen seven divisions in nineteen years. That's the stuff of football legend, where a club's position doesn't depend on wealth but playing ability, weeding out the weak replacing them with more ambitious clubs. Such a system works well in Europe, with its tradition and support but is entirely inappropriate for Australian conditions. Australia soccer doesn't have the tradition, clubs or support in the lower leagues to introduce a second division. We have a much smaller population base that's spread along the East Coast of Australia.

There are also many practical considerations. How will the cost of travel be financed? Most state league sides attract fewer than 1,000 spectators. Gate receipts and sponsorship are poor. Does Joe Brondolino expect Ansett and Ericsson to foot the bill? Sponsors are hardly going to fall over themselves to put money into the second division when it will be in direct competition with the Ericsson Cup, particularly when the second division will attract few people and have little or no television presence.

The cost of running a successful Ericsson Cup side is growing rapidly every year. Soccer Australia's recently released Strategic Plan envisages all clubs having a working capital of at least $5 million by 2003. The well publicized financial crisis gripping many Ericsson Cup clubs like Gippsland Falcons, Adelaide Sharks and Sydney United highlight that running a team in the NSL has (and will continue to) become increasingly costly. More than $750,000 is needed every season just to field a side, a sum that many clubs are finding difficult to raise. This doesn't even mention allocating money for ground improvements to bring facilities up to NSL standard. The gap between the biggest state league clubs and even average national league club is growing rapidly. Is Joe Brondolino seriously suggesting that say Port Melbourne, the current VPL leaders, are promoted to the national league to compete against clubs that dwarf them for resources, support and sponsorship? Its very unlikely that any existing state league could ever have the finance or playing staff (particularly when many rely on NSL players during their off season) to successfully make the jump to the NSL.

A second division may have been a good idea twenty years ago but the times are a changing and the bar has increased so high that most state league clubs wouldn't even reach the minimum. The success of Spirit and Glory (and hopefully the introduction of the Kings) has increased standards. The Ericsson Cup should be developed into an elite competition where all clubs have the financial strength to market the game and buy the crowd pleasing players like Slater, Trimboli and Colosimo that the fans want to see. Promotion would create a group of yo-yo clubs, not strong enough to compete with the likes of South Melbourne and Perth Glory but too strong for many other state league clubs. They would be unable to market the game or give young players a chance because all their efforts and resources would be committed to the annual struggle against relegation. We suspect that this is really about providing a back-door entrance for clubs like Parramatta and Melbourne Raiders to re-enter the league after being

.....SECOND RATE

Second Division - and some of the motives behind it.

axed by David Hill in 1995. Many state officials still hold a grudge and yearn for the days when they held sway over SocAus decision-making.

Since 1995, state leagues (and the VSF in particular) have taken a very antagonistic approach to the Ericsson Cup. Instead of complementing the NSL by marketing soccer, providing more resources to the game at junior level and providing a decent competition for non-NSL players to play in they laughingly see themselves as a rival, organising their premier league fixtures in direct competition with the Ericsson Cup. Rather like the Victorian Cricket Association competing with the ACB or the South Australian National Football League competing with the AFL. No, their role should be to complement the national body and administer the game in their state, providing a decent competition and promoting their game at the grass-roots level. No other major sporting competition has a second division. The most popular sporting league in Australia, the AFL, has never considered having a second division, realizing that there is insufficient talent or people to justify it. Brondolino's proposal is just an attempt by the old clubs to find a backdoor into the Ericsson Cup.

It may be undemocratic but a more logical system would be to have a more selective scheme in place whereby clubs could join the league based on criteria other than just playing considerations. We could adopt a similar scheme to that of Germany where clubs are given a professional license. The league audits every clubs financial records and their Bundesliga license can be revoked if they are in debt or they don't fulfil strict criteria. It's imperative that all clubs in the NSL are financially viable enough to be able to market the game. We don't want clubs spending all their time looking over their shoulders to avoid relegation. Nor do we want clubs having guaranteed tenure and becoming complacent. Any club entering the league would have to meet minimum requirements (and by minimum we mean not the Gippsland Falcons but, at the least, Carlton or South Melbourne. What purpose would be served by having Heidelberg or Parramatta gain promotion? A second division, presumably centred around NSW and Victoria, would only have the effect of introducing more Victorian and NSW sides into the league when a case could be made that there are too many in the NSL anyway. Will only Victorian/NSW or all teams be eligible for relegation? It could even lead to a return of the early 1990's when the league was concentrated around Sydney and Melbourne. The viability of the league depends on it being truly national. Soccer Australia's 'Soccer 21' strategic vision for the national soccer league has no place for annual promotion/relegation. It envisages a truly national league with strategically located clubs and financially viable clubs beyond current national league bases (ie Sydney and Melbourne). Clubs need a strong capital base, excellent facilities and a large supporter base if they are to have a future in the NSL. How many state league clubs can boast of that? A second division would be a step back in time.

Don't forget to check out the S4 Website at -

SU EXPOSED AT EXPO

Thanks to the kind generosity of a major federation (more on that next month) Studs Up is absolutely stoked to announce that we will be present at the 1999 International Soccer Expo to held at Homebush over the week-end of June 11-13. This, of course, coincides with the Oz v FIFA XI match on June 12, so there is no excuse not to come early on the day of the game and drop into the Expo and say G'day

Copies of the SU Guide to the History of the NSL will be available for purchase, as well as a few other surprises. More details next ish.

In the meantime, the preliminary squads have been announced for the big game, and there's no need for us to hype the names. Have a browse below.

Tickets are rapidly running out so stop reading and **Ring Ticketek on 1800 062 849**

AUSTRALIA

Coach
Raul Blanco

Goalkeepers
Mark Bosnich, Aston Villa
Zeljko Kalac, Roda JC

Defenders
Alex Tobin, Adelaide City
Tony Vidmar, Glasgow Rangers
Paul Okon, Lazio
Tony Popovic, Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Stan Lazaridis, West Ham
Brett Emerton, Sydney Olympic
Simon Colosimo, Carlton
Hayden Foxe, Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Kevin Muscat, Wolves

Midfielders
Ned Zelic, 1860 Munich
Aurelio Vidmar, Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Josip Skoko, Hajduk Split
Vince Grella, Empoli
Craig Foster, Crystal Palace
Steve Corica, Wolves

Forwards
John Aloisi, Coventry City
Harry Kewell, Leeds United
Mark Viduka, Glasgow Celtic

FIFA WORLD XI

Coaches
Aime Jacquet, France; Van Sam, Tahiti

Andreas, Germany, Nurnberg
Bernard Lama, France, Paris St Germain
Carlos Roa, Argentina, Real Mallorca

Laurent Blanc, France, Marseille
Julio Cesar, Brazil, Panathinaikos
Alessandro Costacurta, Italy, AC Milan
Marcel Desailly, France, Chelsea
Hadji El Moustafa, Morocco, Dep La Corune
Carlos Gamarra, Paraguay, Corinthians
Fernando Hierro, Spain, Real Madrid
Rigobert Song, Cameroon, Liverpool
Frank Verlaat, Holland, Stuttgart
Taribo West, Nigeria, Inter Milan
Aron Winter, Holland, Inter Milan

David Beckham, England, Manchester United
Youri Djorkaeff, France, Inter Milan
Luis Figo, Portugal, Barcelona
Ryan Giggs, Wales, Manchester United
Leonardo, Brazil, AC Milan
Hidetoshi Nakata, Japan, Perugia
Raul Gonzales, Spain, Real Madrid
Fernando Redondo, Argentina, Real Madrid
Ciriaco Sforza, Switzerland, Kaiserslautern
Juan Veron, Argentina, Parma
Zinedane Zidane, France, Juventus

Gabriel Batistuta, Argentina, Fiorentina
Alessandro Del Piero, Italy, Juventus
Jurgen Klinsmann, Germany
Andrei Shevchenko, Ukraine, Dynamo Kiev
Christian Vieri, Italy, Lazio
George Weah, Liberia, AC Milan
Dwight Yorke, Trinidad, Manchester United

GET THE BOOK OUT!

Yellow card to Tahiti, after a long deliberation with both linesman, the fourth official and the various inspectors we have floating about. With hosting rights for the inaugural World Club Championships up for grabs, it was understandable that some bidders would come from left field. New tournament, new venue. Right?

Left field, perhaps. But from the car park? Tahiti's application presumably has been approved by Oceania, or at least overseen, but can one really imagine the likes of Bayern Munich playing for the World Club Championship in Tahiti? Okay, so Oceania probably wanted to submit a candidate, and NZ are too busy trying to work out the shambles that is becoming the World Under 17 championships (refer any recent copy of Sitter!), but what about Oz? Or can't we even afford to bid?

Yellow card once again to **South Melbourne** for 'doubling-up' on their match programmes. We've said it before, we'll keep saying it. It's an insult to the fans.

Yellow Card, Carlton's change of ownership led to speculation as to whether the Blues would change its name to something that would appeal to more Victorians. The new owners promised to conduct market research on what local sports fans felt about the club's name and, more importantly, whether a change, to say the Melbourne Blues, would attract more support. Scarcely a week later, the club announced that its research concluded that the Carlton name has 'equity', whatever that is, in the sports market place and would be retained. Just how comprehensive could their research have been? Carlton's attendances at their last home games suggests that it obviously wasn't comprehensive enough.

Red Card, to the players who continue to feign injury, dive for penalties or try and get fellow players sent off. FIFA has been threatening to do something about it for a while but players continue to dive at the merest contact and waive imaginary cards when an opponent has fouled a team mate. Diving for a penalty is now a bookable offence but FIFA needs to go a step further and use video evidence to 'out' the divers, amateur dramatists and pseudo-refs. Is it too much to expect authorities to fine/ban players who waive imaginary cards or dive after viewing video footage?

Dear Studs Up (Generic mail) *from Ralph (Kiwiland)*

There is a piece of spin being given out by the Ericsson Cup general manager, Stefan Kamasz who is on record as saying the Kings will be the first soccer club in the world to take part in another country's domestic competition. This is wrong, there are many clubs with a claim to this.

Ed: Ralph then goes on to list plenty of examples which we don't need to bore you with because you already know the Australian clubs and probably don't care about the others.

10th FIFA World Youth Championship

Nigeria 1999

1-24 April 1999

Yep, it's time for another typical Scuds Up Round-Up....

From the time it was announced that this tournament was to be held in Nigeria we should have expected the unexpected. Most readers will remember that the 1995 event was scheduled for Nigeria until the hosting rights were unceremoniously taken away at virtually the last minute.

Things looked behind schedule this time as well, with a number of countries stating security and health concerns, but this is the world game, with geographic, climatic and administrative conditions a natural leveller. It is how teams adapt to the host environment that makes the difference.

The media reaction to Australia's performance in Nigeria was fuelled by critics with axes to grind, with most conveniently overlooking the following facts:

- - England finished bottom of their group, pointless and goalless
- - Germany finished bottom of their group
- - African teams were unbeaten for the first week of competition
- - Japan made the final
- - Mali finished third
- - Brazil failed to reach the semi finals for only the fourth time in eleven tournaments (okay, we're stretching it a bit now...)

If that ain't enough to convince you this was an unusual affair, it is also worth considering that four of the five African teams made it through to the second round, while all four teams from South America qualified for the knock-out phase as well.

Accepting that evidence however, there were many valid criticisms of Les and the players, although the latter were hardly targeted by the media at all in comparison, as if the poor darlings were totally blameless for our exit. There were serious questions before the squad had set foot in Africa though. Why, for example, did the pre-finals training camp take place in the cooler climate of Holland (surely not Pappendaal again!) when the tournament took place in the stifling heat of Nigeria? And why was Mark Byrnes selected if he was not considered worthy of a starting spot once Cunico was suspended?

Both these questions could and perhaps should be half-volleyed straight at FIFA, who passively consent to an unsafe working environment (where's the Players Union when you need it?) and ask the semi finalists to play seven matches in 21 days - or less. And all on a squad of just 18 (mostly) semi-professional players.

Not all Les' problems were caused by factors outside his control however. Tactically, Australia were disappointing, stale and lacking in inspiration. The fragile nature of the defence meant that Simon Colosimo's forward forays were intermittent at best, while Grella was often overwhelmed by opposition midfielders running forward unmarked, forcing him to concede (probably) more free kicks than any other Aussie. Ah well, that's European professionalism for ya!

Another valid criticism is the lack of players used. Tournament football is a squad game, but Les seems content to pick his first eleven and stick with it. It's no coincidence that the young Socceroos have faded badly during the last three tournaments after starting well. The worrying aspect of Schienflug's 'no change' policy is that he quite obviously takes no interest in the strengths/weaknesses of the opposition and adjusts his selection/formation accordingly. For someone who has spent 18 or so years in the job that is a genuine cause for concern.

1999 World Youth Cup.

Memories are short and it was only six years ago that Les & Co were being lauded internationally for their record at this level. Times have changed since those heady days. The domestic talent pool may be expanding but a greater percentage of the 'top end' of that talent is attending overseas finishing schools, making Schienflug's list a largely local affair when perhaps some more overseas players may have been selected had Scheinflug been able to afford to take a closer look at them.

Perhaps more importantly the breaks just didn't go Australia's way. In 1991 we got past Syria on penalties, in 1993 it was a golden goal against Uruguay. Whereas in 1995 Portugal got a golden goal, while in 1999
the pivotal moment was undoubtedly Jason Culina's penalty miss so soon after hitting the woodwork. One suspects that Australia would have earned at least a draw had the score reached 2-2, changing the entire complexion of the group.

Australia's performance at Nigeria '99 isn't reason enough for Les to go, but that shouldn't prevent a thorough examination of Australia's youth coaching set-up.
The current structure has served our purposes well over the past decade, but the signs that adjustments must be made have been hovering for some time. Scheinflug himself has admitted he would enjoy a 'technical director' type role, overseeing the various youth teams while (perhaps) ex-NSL coaches took on the hands-on approach.
In an ideal world we could do the ideal thing, but current budgetary constraints render most plans unworkable, ensuring Les will need more than just a media campaign to convince him his time as youth guru is marked.

Australia-Saudi Arabia: A Bit of History

Bizarre as it sounds, no Young Socceroo combination had previously defeated Asian opposition (in normal time) at the finals. In that context, the 3-1 victory over Saudi Arabia should be viewed as an outstanding achievement, particularly given the match was played in conditions more likely to favour the Arabs.
Australia led 1-0 at half-time courtesy of a left foot shot by Culina from nine metres out, converting a sharp pass from Sterjovski after good work down the left hand side. The Saudis best chance came via the explosive foot of Al-Mutairi, who forced Breadon into a fingertip save after 16 minutes with a blistering 35m free-kick and then rattled the bar two minutes after Oz had taken the lead. Grella and Culina had excellent first halves in midfield while Wilson was also prominent down the left hand flank.
Culina continued to dominate proceedings after the break and was instrumental in Australia's second, running on to a Sterjovski pass and providing an unmarked Maisano with the opportunity to convert easily from eight metres out.
The heat was taking its toll by now with a number of players suffering from cramp and other assorted ailments caused by fatigue-induced misjudgments when challenging for the ball.
Which summed up Oman Al-Ghami's own goal to extend Oz's lead. Bresciano stormed down the left and delivered a ball which Maisano missed but finished in the net thanks to the Arab's untidy connection.

The Saudis managed a late consolation via Mohammed Dabo who outjumped the defence to remind Australia of their defensive frailties. At that point the satellite coverage ended and we were left assuming the game ended 3-1.
The SBS panel were suitably impressed (by the Young Socceroos, not the satellite). As the experts put it: Johnny Warren: "..mature..", Nick Rizzo: "..excellent..", Farina: "..professional.."

Australia-Mexico: Tale of Two Penalties

Fresh, or should that be exhausted, from a 3-1 win over the Saudis, the Young Socceroos were again forced to play in the daytime sun. Mexico had defeated Ireland, with a free kick, in the opening game. It was a lesson the Aussies had failed to learn.

Mexico took the lead in the lead 2nd minute when Eddy Bosnar, designated to guard the post, had his thoughts elsewhere as Marquez guided a free kick past 'keeper Breaden. Conceding an early goal in such conditions was a disaster. Australia didn't do itself any favours by giving away possession easily, chasing Mexican shadows when it was even more imperative to conserve energy, and conceding too many free kicks (eight in twenty minutes).

Schienllug's stubborn use of wing backs hardly helped. It was simply too hot to expect Emerton and Wilson to defend and attack. Lindsay Wilson, despite being a right footer, linked well with Bresciano on the left and was one of our better players but Emerton simply couldn't cope with the position. Seeing him defend by the corner flag is a criminal waist of talent. Les's tactics have turned Emerton into a workhorse, shuffling up and down the touchline, too knackered to put in any crosses.

After thirty minutes, Australia began winning more possession but had little penetration. Colosimo, wasted as a stopper, was desperate to inject himself into the game. Bresciano collapsed after a tackle and seemed utterly exhausted. On 45 minutes, a hopeful Emerton punt cleared the Mexican defence and Stenjovski raced clear to shoot past the 'keeper and equalise.

Joel Griffiths replaced Maisano but it was Mexico who held the initiative. On 58 minutes, Breaden was judged to have brought down Ossorno, who did his best to highlight what contact there was, in the box. Rodriguez converted. Terminello and Invincibile, moving to the right wing to allow Emerton to move inside, replaced Bresciano and Grella.

Then came a fateful minute for Culina that decided the game. Branko's son had a 77th minute free kick thump against the cross bar and then missed a penalty a minute later after Mendez handled a corner. It knocked the stuffing out of the Aussies and Ossorno completed the scoring when a cross was deflected into his path.

Australia-Ireland: Speed Kills

Schainflug axed Anthony Breaden and selected Michael Turnbull for the last group game. The Aussies needed a win to finish second or a draw to perhaps qualify as one of the best third placed teams. Cunico's suspension forced Les to play Wilson as a stopper in a three man defence and select David Terminello as left wing back. The Irish tore into the Aussies, their pace difficult to contain. After nine minutes, Robbie Keane brushed past two defenders and forced Turnbull to save low to his right.

On 19 minutes, the impressive Duff, turning Emerton inside out for the umpteenth time, put over a cross that Sadlier headed unmarked from inside the six yard box. The rest of the half was scrappy, the Aussies having enough possession but failing to trouble the Irish. Australia did have the ball in the net on 45 minutes but Maisano's goal was incorrectly ruled offside.

Les worked the changes at the interval. Care and Invincibile replaced Culina and Maisano, the biggest Aussie disappointment. Invincibile moved up front, Emerton in the middle, Terminello at left wing back and Wilson at right wing back to mark Damien Duff, and counter Irish speed, and Colosimo moved across to mark the tall Sadlier. Australia started the half more positively but had little to show for it.

Twenty minutes from time, Les gambled by replacing Terminello with Griffiths. Care was pushed forward forcing Wilson to revert to the left side in a virtual 3-4-3. It left the right flank exposed and sure enough Duff intercepted a pass, floated past three defenders and shot past Turnbull. The heat had sapped the Young Socceroos strength and Duff's wonder goal sapped their will.

Moments later, Keane shimmied past Wilson and teed up Healey for the third goal and Crossley added a fourth in the last minute to complete Australia's rout. The Aussies turned their thoughts to home and Les turned his to thinking up some really convincing excuses for On the Ball.

1999 World Youth Cup Finals (in Nigeria)
Group C (in Ibadan)

Apr 4	**Saudi Arabia**	**3-1**	Jason Culina 29, John Maisano 70 Omar Al-Ghani 76og
Apr 7	**Mexico**	**1-3**	Mile Stejovski 45
Apr 10	**Rep of Ireland**	**0-4**	

	D.O.B.	Club	Saudi	Mexico	Ireland
1. Anthony Breadon	07 03 79	Adelaide City	X	X(y)	
18. Michael Turnbull	24 03 81	AIS			X
3. Lindsay Wilson	04 05 79	Canberra Cosmos	Xo66	X	X
4. Simon Colosimo	08 01 79	Carlton	X	X(y)	X
5. Eddy Bosnar	29 04 80	Northern Spirit	X	X	X
6. Paul Wearne	14 03 80	Northern Spirit			
17. Mark Byrnes	08 02 82	NSWIS			
2. Brett Emerton	22 02 79	Sydney Olympic	X	X	X
7. Jason Culina	05 08 80	Sydney Olympic	X	X	Xo46
8. Vince Grella	05 10 79	Empoli (Italy)	X	Xo62	X(y)
9. Marco Bresciano	11 02 80	Carlton	X	Xo62	X
12. David Terminello	30 08 80	Adelaide City	so68	so62	Xo70
13. Michael Cunico	17 03 79	Northern Spirit	X(y)	X(y)	
14. Danny Invincible	31 03 79	Marconi		so62	so46
15. Christian Care	21 03 79	Marconi	so82		so46
10. John Maisano	06 01 79	Westerlo (Belg)	Xo78	Xo46	Xo46
11. Mile Sterjovski	27 05 79	Sydney United	Xo82	X	X
16. Joel Griffiths	21 08 79	Sydney United	so78	so46	so70

And while we're in International mode....

The Olyroos squad for the match in Japan on May 12 has been announced and with the deliberate omission of players involved in the Ericsson Cup finals, the squad has a distinct lack of striking power. Plenty of quality elsewhere though....

Gk: Peter Zois (NAC Breda), Joe Didulica (Melbourne Knights)

Def: Hayden Foxe (Hiroshima), Tansel Baser (Trabzonspor), Simon Colosimo (Carlton), Stephen Laybutt (Brisbane), Chris Coyne (west Ham), Dragi Nastevski (Melb Knights)

Mid: Raphael Bove (Heerenveen), Vince Grella (Empoli), Lucas Neill (Millwall), Mark Bresciano (Carlton), Bill Damianos (Xanthi), Brett Emerton (Sydney Olympic), Kasey Wehrman (Brisbane)

For: Archie Thompson (Carlton), Nick Carle (Sydney Olympic)

Forming Fiction from Friction

TFP may be (temporarily) no more, but that won't stop Stevo from entertaining SU readers with a scenario which may not be as unlikely as we may think.....

Late on a Sunday evening, and deep within the innards of the building housing the Daily Blower, a telephone rings. A big, balding middle-aged man, whose spreading gut has seen better days, picks it up.

"Hello!"

"G'day. That you, Chief?"

Yeah, g'day Davo. Owyagoin?"

"Not bad, thanks".

"To what do I owe the pleasure? What've you got for me?"

Well, Chief, the NSL top six is confirmed. Thought I'd give you the drum".

"Ho bloody hum. I'm holding my breath... OK. Who've we got this time?"

"Good news Chief, Sydney United and South Melbourne, one and two. That means the GF will probably be between them".

"So what? Why's that good news?"

"Well, for starters they both play good soccer. Sprinkled with Socceroos, Olyroos and Young Socceroos. Lozanovski can blast 'em in from anywhere, and"....

"Davo! (a hint of menace in Chief's voice)".

"What?"

"Settle down, son".

"Wait, there's more. South Melbourne are reigning champions so they're going for back-to-back. And Sydney United are almost broke but have finished up minor Premiers. They're coached by David Mitchell, who everyone thinks is an absolute genius and probably a future Socceroo coach. It's real David and Goliath stuff. You know, underdogs make good and all that. It'd make a real good..."

"DAVO YOU CRETIN! **(Chief is roaring now)***...How long have I been running this sports desk? Eight bloody years, that's how long. And since when have you known me want to run that sort of crap about a soccer match? Now stop pulling my leg, there's a good boy. I've been here too bloody long today, and my sense of humour is not what it could be. Just give me the good stuff and stop wasting my time!"*

Davo chuckles at his success in winding up his boss. "Sorry Chief, just testing to see if you're awake. Here's the good stuff. South Melbourne - Greek, and Orthodox. Sydney United - Croatian, Catholic. Both fiercely nationalistic".

"Sounds better so far".

"Yeah. Picture red flares and yobs dancing around them waving red and white chequerboard flags. They're chanting 'Cro-ah-teah, Cro-ah-teah'."

How very Oz."

"True. Picture blue and white flags and people jumping up and down shouting "Hellas! Hellas!". Imagine obscenities and racial taunts being chanted across the ground at opposing supporters, stuff being thrown, that kind of thing. Can you recall a certain preliminary final in Sydney a few years ago?"

"Wait a minute...yeah. I think I can. The old Fat Controller, David Hill, he just about turned purple, didn't he?"

"That's right. He went for 'em like a rat up a drainpipe. The good thing is, nothing's changed".

"I'm starting to warm to this. Tell me more."

"Well, I can see a disputed penalty decision in the 90th minute. I can see the ball hitting the back of the net and everyone going berserk.

And I can see the ref leaving the field under police escort".

"Ha! Ha! I can see the rozzers getting in a lather already".

Davo can visualise his editor's Colstoneaque gut wobbling and engulfing his trouser belt as he laughs. Disgusted but undeterred, he goes on. "You bet. I can see seats flying through the air. I can hear after-match speeches being drowned out. And I can see hundreds of people brawling around the centre circle".

"Stop it, Davo! Stop it - I can feel my sense of humour coming back. Even better, I can feel a front page coming on".

"Great. As long as I get to write it, with a by-line".

"We'll worry about that later. Tell me though, what if those two teams don't make the final? Who else have we got?".

"Well (hesitantly)....there's good news and bad news". Davo can hear a chair creaking as his boss straights up. "On the one hand we've got Marconi and Adelaide City. Both Italian, so if they happen to make the final against South, it's still very promising. Funny how all through the regular season these clubs can't draw enough support to hold panty-hose up, but give
'em an opportunity to get stuck into the Greeks in a finals setting and there's no stopping 'em.
Actually, it even worked a treat in a regular season fixture between Ad City and South a few years ago. Rocks thrown through the window of the coach as one of the teams left the ground, as I recall. A player badly hurt, too, followed by yet another Spanish bloody inquisition. You bloody beauty!"

"I take it this is the good news. What about the bad?".

"Don't shoot the messenger here Chief, but the other two are Perth Glory and Northern Spirit".

"What the hell are they? Basketball teams?"

"Nope. Much worse than that. They both average home gates of about 15,000. Their supporters chant the team name and make a hell of a lot of noise. Worst of all, they sing".

"I don't like the sound of this, Davo. Where's the news in that?"

"Dunno, Chief. We could be struggling. They even like to get families along. That means non-violence, women, kids, the whole works. Cripes, Northern Spirit even banned a supporter for life earlier this year for a scuffle down at Wollongong".

"How many could these teams get along to a GF?" (a little testily now).

"Well, Chief. The final will be in either Sydney or Melbourne, so I don't think we need to worry about Perth getting too many there if they make it".

"Nah, you're right. We'll get a nice little 10-15,000 won't we. Nothing to worry about".

"Yeah. But Chief, I think I ought to warn you about the worst case scenario".

"WHAT!"

"Oops....Sorry mate. Don't get excited because it's got Buckley's of happening".

"Whaddya mean? What is it?"

"Northern Spirit versus Sydney United".

"Why?"

"It'd be a Sydney derby at the Sydney Football Stadium. That means two full sets of supporters. I reckon, oh, about

(continued on page 25)

All Hail SU!!!!!!!

Show me a club which has no money, few supporters and raided of its best players for the second year in a row, and I'll show you the minor premiers. Incredible as it seems, David Mitchell has taken Sydney United to the point where the national championship is just three (maybe two) wins away. Which is truly astonishing given the question marks surrounding SU's very survival at the half-way mark of the season.

There was talk of them perhaps not even finishing the season, and their absence from the next season's competition seemed a formality. Still, the Pumas racked up the points. Then possibly the final straw, with the World Youth Cup finals tearing into Mitchell's squad, it seemed even the double chance may elude them.

But cometh the hour, cometh the Day. SU (the fanzine) has been waiting for Nathan Day to set the league alight since he scored with a spectacular effort against South Melbourne at Bob Jane Stadium a few years back. At SU (the club), he has had to bide his time as Mile Sterjovski and Joel Griffiths stole the starting spots and the headlines with performances which demanded their retention. But a crucial road trip to Optus Oval saw the beginning of a six goal haul in as many matches, leaving David Mitchell with the nicest possible problem going into the finals.

Which is almost the way South Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou would have envisaged it a couple of months ago. With Curcija, Coveny, Anastasiadis and Trimboli all in form and with SM seven points clear, Postecoglou was concerned over the lack of respect his side was shown. By April 16 he had his answer in spades. They had failed to beat a 10-man Adelaide City, extended their miserable Sydney record by losing to Northern Spirit and Sydney United, and needed to rely on a Nick Orlic goal for a home win over cellar-dwellers Canberra. The evidence is clear. South Melbourne are not a patch on last year's title winning combination. But besides Sydney United, have the rest made up sufficient ground?

If it's goals you're looking for, take a plane trip to the other side of the country. The league's leading scorers are pure magic to watch, capable of crushing teams within 45 minutes. Coach Bernd Stange has marshalled the potential shown since the club's inception and with the addition of Alastair Edwards the Glory have added extra firepower to an already impressive arsenal. The argument rages on as to whether Con Boutsianis is worth a spot in the world's top 50 free-kick specialists (seriously!) but there is no argument that if Markovski, Despotovski, Kalogeracos and Boutsi hit form, they could go all the way, even with a dodgy defence and inconsistent midfield.

Marconi's inconsistencies make them another finals wildcard. Looked very good early in the season but a run of five consecutive defeats (including a 0-5 hiding from Olympic) had the knives pointing in Frank Farina's direction. Things looked grim with five weeks to go after suffering a 3-4 home loss to Perth Glory but an away win over a dispirited Carlton turned around their season. As the other finals aspirants dropped points Marconi quickly reeled them in and even cemented a spot with a match to play. It is pretty hard seeing Marconi reach the final, despite the wealth of finals experience. Lots depends on the form of Awaritefe and especially Maloney, but it's hard to see them winning from fourth.

Northern Spirit's pre-season spending spree led many to believe that the prospect of seeing young talent at North Sydney Oval was slim. Huh!? Paul Henderson has genuine claims on goalkeeper of the year status while Daniel Watkins, Michael Cunico and Michael Langdon all look definite long-term senior prospects. A miserly home defence can't disguise the lack of a genuine goalscorer, but there are enough options coming from midfield to pinch the tight ones. Like others in the finals however, they too can be dreadful on a bad day. But they have Robbie Slater and Kresimir Marusic - two of the league's 'big-gamers', and therefore simply cannot be discounted in the betting. Adelaide City managed to claw their way into the finals at the eleventh hour (and fifty third minute!) despite scoring just three goals in their last six matches.

(Sorry, no more Sydney hail jokes...)

Needing to win their final match at Hindmarsh against Sydney Olympic, it was entirely appropriate that Alex Tobin should score the goal which clinched a tenth consecutive finals appearance. To try and put that into perspective, they haven't missed the finals since St George finished second. Tobin's moment of glory hopefully went some way to compensate a 0-1 derby defeat on the occasion of his 400th game, but it won't compensate the knowledge that Ad City are on their last legs and a major overhaul will be required if the Zebras are to win the championship in the next few years. Then again, like Slater and Marusic, Mori and Vean are capable of anything on any given day.

After the winners, comes the hard luck stories and the bullshit stories.

Sydney Olympic have once again managed to confound their supporters by missing the finals after being touted as potential champions by Mike Cockerill and others since their opening night win at North Sydney Oval. Only Olympic could manage to finish as low as seventh with such a talent-laden squad. What Branko Culina now has to explain to the Olympic board is: How could they have stuffed it up? They even had the league's top scorer! Don't say you weren't warned though. In the SU pre-season tipster's round-up, only two of six predicted they would make the finals.

As for last year's grand finalists, Carlton relied on too few once they had sold off the vital parts of their organisation (Markovski, Vlahos, Grella) but then attributed poor form to lack of depth in the squad. Injuries and suspensions were another whinge (like at every other club) but Moreira proved he hasn't got the nuts to mix it with the finalists while Andrew Marth should readily admit he had an ordinary season by his high standards. The club's policy towards trials overseas was also disruptive to team harmony and one wonders whether the new team led by Peter Jess understands what it will take to make Carlton competitive now. Did they really sneak up on teams in the first year, or is it just the second year blues?

Which leaves us with seven more teams to pass judgement on, but only Newcastle deserve to be mentioned. Lee Sterrey has put the self-belief back into the club. It may not be pretty, but it is competitive, which is more than we are used to seeing from the Breakers. It is now up to the board to decide whether they want to take the next step, or pass the club into the hands of someone who does.
As for those who don't deserve a mention, we'll have to save that for another day. To be honest, it may take some time to find something constructive to say about some of them.

So, to the finals, and the search for the likely winner.

There seems little doubt we'll get some cracking soccer. The Adelaide defence against the Perth attack promises to be a very interesting affair over both legs, especially if the Zebras give away too many free kicks around the 18 yard box. Even if they don't Perth have the motivation to go further then Adelaide.
Marconi and Northern Spirit are so closely matched the result could hinge on a set piece. On that basis, you suspect the Spirit might just get there. Doubts surround the Stallions' defence while at the other end they seem less accident-prone.

In the major semi, you have to fancy Sydney United. Their midfield is better equipped to handle the rough and tumble of finals footy and the recent 1-0 win in Sydney provided enough evidence to suggest that SU could be the winner over two legs.
No-one should need reminding however that the grand final is a one-legged affair.

And to the winner will go not just the spoils but a possible trip to Fiji in October for the hastily arranged Oceania Club Championship followed by (hopefully) a trip to the big dance for tangos with the likes of Man Utd or Bayern Munich, now that UEFA have announced that the winner of the May 26 clash will 'be sent' to the inaugural World Club Championships next January. It promises to be a huge step up in class for the Ericsson Cup winner, but it is the only way our clubs can progress.

Joeys Latest Island Hop

Well, as we tend to type at this time, one tournament ends and another starts. This time it's the Joeys' turn to carry the flag into battle with the battleground on this occasion being the home of Oceania's big improvers over the past decade, Fiji.

Curiously, the Joeys were drawn to play the hosts in the opening fixture so we hope we won't be back here next month discussing how the hosts produced a boilover.

Three-quarters of the squad have come through the tried and trusted avenue of the institute system, providing further ammunition for the 'elitist' claims, but SU recommends keeping an eye on Radoslav Culibrk who is playing first grade at Springvale.

Australia's draw is:

Saturday 1st May 1999	Fiji	2-1
Monday 3rd May 1999	Papua New Guinea	8-0
Wednesday 5th May 1999	Cook Islands	
Friday 7th May 1999	American Samoa	
Monday 10th May 1999	Vanuatu	
Wednesday 12th May 1999	Winner Pool 1 Vs Runner-up Pool 2 + Winner Pool 2 Vs Runner-up Pool 1	
Friday 14th May 1999	3rd Vs 4th play-off + FINAL	

#	NAME	D-O-B	CLUB	Fiji	PNG	C I	A S	Van
1	MILOSEVIC Matthew	29/10/82	SASI (Australia)					
18	KEDWELL-VANSTRATTAN Jess	19/07/82	NSWIS (Australia)					
2	CULIBRK Radoslav	14/07/82	Springvale White Eagles (Aus)					
3	CANSDELL-SHERRIFF Shane	10/11/82	NSWIS (Australia)					
4	GOULDING Aaron	29/04/82	SASI (Australia)					
5	LAURIE Steven	13/10/82	West Ham (UK)					
6	BYRNES Mark	8/02/82	NSWIS (Australia)					
12	LOCKHART Shane	26/09/82	NSWIS (Australia)					
19	FYFE Iain	3/04/82	SASI (Australia)					
7	NORTH Jade	7/01/82	AIS/Brisbane Strikers (Australia)					
10	PANTELIS Lucas	12/03/82	AIS (Australia)					
13	SRHOJ Wayne	23/03/82	AIS/Brisbane Strikers (Australia)					
14	JOHNSON James	21/05/82	QAS (Australia)					
15	DOUMANIS Anthony	1/02/82	NSWIS (Australia)					
16	LETTIERI Fabian	7/09/82	Werder Bremen (Germany)					
20	SARIC Mislav	3/09/83	SASI (Australia)					
8	BRAIN Louis	9/05/82	Adelaide City (Australia)					
9	DI IORIO Joseph	8/04/82	Werder Bremen (Germany)					
11	McDONALD Scott	21/08/83	VIS/Gippsland Falcons (Australia)					
17	MacALLISTER Dylan	17/05/82	NSWIS (Australia)					

Bound for Glory and Heading for Another Championship

A Studs Up guide to club anthems (minus the emotion!)

Is there a better feeling for any supporter than belting out the club theme song after just having walloped your local rival? Sadly, few Ericsson Cup teams have their own anthem, preferring to use well-known songs to celebrate goals/corner kicks/victories. *We are the champions* is often used but its too Ajax. A club anthem must preferably evoke club tradition and reflect a clubs location, tradition and ambitions. Spurs celebrate their triumphs to the timeless dirge's of Chas n' Dave, Newcastle United run out to Mark Knopfler's theme from the film '*Local Hero*' at St James' Park, Everton take the field to the stirring tune from the 1960's policy drama based on Merseyside '*Z Cars*' and, most famously, Liverpool will always be associated with Gerry and the Pacemakers '*You'll never walk alone*'. Victorians know a thing or two about club anthems. AFL theme songs are drummed into kids from such a young age that most would know the words to *Good old Collingwood forever* or *See the Bombers fly up* than they would Advance Australia Fair. Heidelberg's seminal classic *Alexandros Alexandros* is a one of the earliest known classics and the standard by which all other club anthems should be judged. At Lakeside Stadium, rock band Frozen Tears recorded their ode to South Melbourne '*Heading for another championship*'. The band recorded the song last year and included a Greek/Hellas, power, pop, unplugged and O'le mix – all of which were identical except for the opening chords that were altered for each version accordingly. The song got quite an airing during last season's finals but has unfortunately rarely been heard this year. I don't know why, how could anyone fail to be inspired by lyrics such as these:

South Melbourne - heading for another championship
South Melbourne – We're gonna win the league
South Melbourne - blue and white forever
South Melbourne - we live and breath for you.

Carlton have tried several anthems to inspire the fans and get the players fired up. At various times this season the Blues have taken the field to several tunes including Local Hero and various classical pieces. Last season, Carlton and the music men recorded Celtic's 'Hail, Hail' anthem.

Hail, Hail the Blues are here
Carlton are the champions
Oh it's a grand old team to play for
Oh it's a grand old team to see

Like Carlton's finals hopes this season, the song has died a quick death and along with the music men has disappeared.

Perth Glory predictably use Angry Anderson's *Bound for Glory* to whip their fans into frenzy. Perhaps the Glory could add its own particular lyrics and record it. It's a song that evokes special images for Victorians who remember Angry charging onto the ground before the 1991 AFL Grand Final on a batmobile-cum-hovercraft to sing the song.

(continued over)

Here's a few club anthems of years gone by from Aussie soccer's very own Glenn A Baker, Andrew Howe who has delved deep into his music library to come up with these gems. They highlight most of the key elements of any club anthem, dodgy lyrics, mindless optimism and a hell of a lot of rhyming.

NEWCASTLE KB UNITED (around 1979)

United! [clap clap clap] United! [clap clap clap]
We will raise our banner high
The green and browns will not say die
United! United!

You'll hear us cheering "Up the 'Castle!"
We'll support you when you play
We'll be with you all the way
And we'll know you'll always stay up at the top

Yes we'll be cheering "Up the 'Castle!"
When our forwards find the net
You'll hear a roar you wont forget
And it's not all over yet - our boys wont stop

United! United!
We will raise our banner high
The green and browns will not say die
United! United!

[etc]

United! United!
All for one and one for all
United play the best football

CROATIA (Sydney/Melbourne, 1980s)
(forgive my poor Croatian/translation)

Tu na kraju svjeta bijela [here in this place]
Dalcko od rodnog kraja
[far from our native country]
Ime nos (voje skuplja
[(something about being together)]
Secs nam u jedno spaja [we all join together]

Bilo a suncanom Sydney-u
[with our crest in sunny Sydney]
Ili a Melbourne-u gradu
[or in Melbourne town]
Bil cemo skupa pjevati [in unity we sing]
Ovu ja pjesmu dragu [this our dear song]

Croatia! Croatia! Croatia je sampion!
[Croatia! Croatia! Croatia! - the champions!]
Croatia! Croatia! Croatia je sampion!
[Croatia! Croatia! Croatia! - the champions!]

...Volimo Croatiju! Volimo sampiona!
[We love Croatia! We love a champion!!]

[etc]

ADELAIDE CITY (1978)

Come on Adelaide City!
United we will stand
We will be the leaders
We will be the champions
We will show them how!

So come on, come on Adelaide City
We will show them how!

Come on Adelaide City
United we will stand
We are black and white
We are football's might

So come on, come on Adelaide City
We will show them how!

clap clap etc etc

SALISBURY UNITED (1980s)
(Sth Aust. state league team)

Salisbury United proud to be
Proud of our lion-hearted team
Proud to be the berries - proud indeed
Proud of our lion-hearted team

Salisbury United never fear
We'll fill our hearts with one rousing cheer
Come on the berries we're on top
We'll show them the berries can't be stopped

Because we'll fight (we'll fight!) we'll win (we'll win) we'll fight
(we'll fight!) we'll fight (we'll fight!) we'll win

...etc

SOCCER IS THE REAL FOOTBALL
(Socceroos anthem - released around 1980)

Soccer, soccer, soccer is the real football
Soccer, soccer, it's the greatest show of them all
And if you ain't seen it, let me clue ya
The Socceroos will Socceroo ya
Soccer, soccer, soccer is real football

It all began in England back in 1835
Two West Burton(?) villages, 200 a side
Now the vicar was the referee
And the rulebook was a dream
They scored a goal by kicking the ball across the village stream

We've come a long long way since then
The first game was a shocker
From the village brawl that started it all
To international soccer!

Soccer, soccer, soccer is the real football
Soccer, soccer, it's the greatest show of them all
Barefooted in streets, or boots on arenas
From Russia to the Argentinas
Soccer, soccer, soccer is real football!

Pele, Banks and Beckenbauer, all legends in their day
Charlton, Best and Matthews, all taught the world to play
But Australia's in the ball game now
And a lot of young men dream
Of pulling on the green and goal of the national soccer team

We may not bring the world cup home
But tell em win or lose
Australia will be cheering on the Aussie Socceroos

Soccer, (yeah!) soccer, soccer is the real football
Soccer, soccer, it's the greatest show of them all
And if you ain't seen it, let me clue ya
The Socceroos will Socceroo ya
Soccer, soccer, soccer is real football

Soccer, (yeah) soccer, soccer is the real football
Soccer, soccer, it's the greatest show of them all
And if you ain't seen it, let me clue ya
The Socceroos will Socceroo ya
Soccer, soccer, soccer is real football

CANBERRA CITY (around 1978)

We'll be with you, be with you, be with you
As you go along your way
We'll be with you, be with you, be with you
By your side we'll always stay

Canberra! [clap clap clap] Canberra! [clap clap clap]
You're the boys in gold and blue
We're the boys who'll see you through
Canberra! [clap clap clap] Canberra! [clap clap clap]
Goals are gonna come our way today!

[repeat 4 times]

SOUTH MELBOURNE (1996)

Yeah... oooh yeah...

Summer's here and we're heading for the lake
We live and breathe the magic blue and white
The time has come and the whistle blows
You can hear the blue army roar!

[CHORUS:]
South Melbourne - heading for another championship
South Melbourne - we're gonna win the league
South Melbourne - the blue and white forever
South Melbourne - we're living free for you

Win or lose we fight to the bitter end(the bitter end!)
The taste of victory
Is gonna make history
The atmosphere's electric
As the ball crashes in to the back of the net
You can hear the sound of "go"!
The boys in blue are gonna win again!

CHORUS

The crowd's into a frenzy
As the ball crashes in to the back of the net
You can hear the crowd roar
The smell of victory is in the air

CHORUS

Wanted: Coaches

(Short-term positions available, previous experience preferred but not essential)

Life, death, taxes and coaching changes. SU takes a look at the volatile nature of this season a Victorian Premier League season and concludes that no one should be regarded as safe...

There's never any shortage of controversy in Victoria and this season's Premier League has been no exception although the real fireworks may be just around the corner as the threat of relegation looms larger for an established club or two August 15 marks the end of the regular season Four clubs will be relegated but we can expect various teams to make changes to their coaching staff as the second half of the season gets underway

Already there have been a number of casualties with the most spectacular perhaps being at **Altona Magic** Chris Taylor resigned just three matches into the season reportedly concerned of becoming a scapegoat after the team had lost their opening three games Naturally this was considered totally unacceptable for a club which three-peated between 1995 97 Taylor's cause wasn't helped by the delayed arrival of three European imports Ace Vasilevski Toni Trifunov and Zlatko Ristevski Sure enough once the visa hassles were sorted out and the trio arrived the Magic's form picked up and new player/coach Zoran Trajceski can now start planning on cutting through the mid table pack Multi medal winners Tom Markovski and goalkeeper Darren McGrath are still at the club so the defence won't be leaky for long but after beginning with four losses and a goal difference of 1-15, they've surely given the leaders too big a start

Similar story at last year's grand finalists **St Albans** another club already on their second coach this season Having lost coach Vlado Vanis at the end of last season St Albans appointed Steve Rastocic but he was gone after six matches The club formerly known as St Albans Dinamo were quick to snap up Vid Horvat following his disappointing spell at Somers St After guiding the team to consecutive wins over Altona Magic and South Dandenong it seems the early season grand final hangover is about to be blown away Saints fans hopes had been raised on the eve of the season when Harry Karl walked out of Somers St and back into Churchill Avenue Despite an opening day red card he has knocked in nine goals this season (to April 18) to almost single handedly drag St Albans into mid table but the rest of last year's squad will need to lift if a late season scramble to avoid the drop is to be avoided Damian Vojtek Branko Becak and Ivica Cilerica will be familiar names to interstate readers but the Saints also have established stars in Ivan Razov goalkeeper Manjan Vunderl and striker Kon Stanidis which should ensure a safe mid table finish at the very least And if Harry Karl can continue his sizzling form then anything is possible

Springvale White Eagles are another club to be on their second coach with Bobby McLaughlin stepping into the hottest seat in Victorian soccer after Milos Nasic couldn't drag the Serbian club from the relegation zone The Eagles were at the centre of controversy in round five The VSF made the prudent decision to shift the Serb club's home match against the (predominantly) Albanian supported South Dandenong to a neutral venue at the other end of the metropolitan area, Fawkner Whether they were correct in going one step further and playing the match behind closed doors is one that still rankles with officials of both clubs With the deteriorating situation in Kosovo, the VSF will be faced with a similar situation on June 12 when the return fixture is scheduled to take place at George Andrews Reserve How ironic that Australia will be playing a F.F.A World XI on the same day Before then however McLaughlin will need to revitalize a side which opened with three defeats but is capable of playing some excellent soccer as Melbourne Raiders will testify One can't help feeling the White Eagles will need huge seasons from captain Zlatko Majkovic and import Igor Mandic if they are to avoid a real dogfight come August And that isn't taking into account events over the hills and far away

The fourth coaching change has taken place at ex-NSL club **Sunshine** where Anthony Cassar has been replaced by John Kanesoulis in a move the club claimed was to prevent further culling of player staff Robert Krajacic was one who was shown the door by Cassar but welcomed back by Kanesoulis although two points from five matches had the Georgies in real trouble Like other clubs though just as you're about to put a line through them out they come and beat St Albans There is a frail look to the squad however and while the team continues to concede over two goals a game it is doubtful they will manage to collect enough points to avoid the drop Finalists from 93-96 Sunshine have finished 8th and 7th in the past two seasons but a repeat of that will need more than just a coaching change

The most intriguing change has taken place at Westvale where a dismal start sees them rock bottom and almost certain to make an immediate return to State League Division One It would put a dampener on what has been a meteoric rise through the ranks in recent years and one could argue that they have arrived in the big league at the worst possible time Faced with a long cold winter in the bottom four the cheque book has been withdrawn from the hoister and Sash Markovski (Preston) and Zoran Cvetkovski (Springvale) will add sorely needed support for the ex Heidelberg crew which includes Angie Goulziouris Phil Stubbins, Mike Chaizir tonas and Gary Hasler The latest addition to the Berger connection is Mike Orukalo after the ex Guam Fiji (Olympic) and somewhere in Cyprus coach was convinced by Angelo Bouzis to take over the reins when Phil Stubbins was asked to step aside Definitely a club to watch both on and off the field in the coming months Orukalo's appointment also ensures there will be at least one other change before the end of the season Mike is booked to take over at Al Arabi in Kuwait at the end of July meaning he will be unavailable for the final two matches an interesting prospect if the club is battling to stay out of the drop zone

So having got the coaching merry-go-round sorted out who is likely to have their dreams come true at the end of July?

Not **South Dandenong**, whose collective mind like that of Springvale is distracted by events off the field although the level of passion amongst the support should not be discounted when it comes to tight finishes Coach Fadil Muriqi will have his work cut out keeping SD out of the relegation area However with the likes of Carlo Villani Nick Van Egmond Robert Runje Reshat Mezensof and goalkeeper Chris Roche in the side, anything is possible on any given day as a gutsy 4-3 home win over Preston testified

Certainly not Altona **East** The championship is definitely out of the question for a club hell bent on avoiding the drop Peter Ollerton's experience has proved invaluable With Paul Donnelly in good form and George Angelos and captain Steven Bartol also producing the goods, the Greek controlled club may not be the automatic relegation candidates most pundits predicted them to be After a semi-promising start Ollerton has strengthened the squad with the signings of goalkeeper Sam Frangos (Port Melbourne) and John Dimitrelos (Green Gully) If Nick Papadopoulos and Peter Grodis can continue to fire in midfield then the Phoenix may once again rise from the, er relegation zone

Certainly not **Fawkner** either with the Blues remaining the Mr Average of the competition, unable to muster a serious title challenge but rarely in danger of the drop either Of course they received a scare a couple of years ago when a merger saved them from relegation but they remain one of only six teams to have played in the Premier League every season since its inception in 1992 They should be respected for that, at least Past records count for little however and the Blues could well find themselves in a real dogfight come August particularly if visits to Altona Magic St Albans and Green Gully over the next month prove to be pointless exercises Started the season with a win but followed up with just two points from their next seven matches leaving them sitting at the bottom for 24 hours Coach Ken Murphy has sensed the danger ahead however and with Peter Psarros and Josip Biskic (yes *that* Josip Biskic) back on board it is expected that Fawkner can retain their proud ever-present record in the top flight Just

A bit like the **Melbourne Raiders** actually who found themselves in the unfamiliar position of being among the frontrunners after avoiding defeat against the big guns and then enjoying a 4-0 farewell bash at Partridge Reserve over Altona East. Their unbeaten start came to an abrupt end at Preston when the home team played for over an hour with ten men and finished the game with nine! The following week saw the Raiders unveil their new home at Epping (which the Melway street directory curiously refers to as an NSL ground!) The fairytale was halted by Port Melbourne, who came out 2-0 on top in another multi red card affair. For the time being at least, they have dropped off the pace set by Port and Green Gully. Coach Dusan Kalezic was philosophical pre-season, realizing his team had little chance of taking the title. With a new coach, name and ground, the club must realize that all the ingredients are present for a disaster. Provided the Raiders finish in a respectable mid-table position and blood a few new players in the process then the season should be classified as a success. Anyway, with ex-Olyroo George Sirilas and George Jolevski both living, relegation seems a long way off, particularly if Nick Cuculevski and Pino Corallo keep knocking the goals in up front.

Unlike their northern neighbours **Preston Lions** (formerly Preston Makedonia of NSL fame or infamy depending on your memory) are making what seems to be a serious challenge for the championship. You sort of suspected something was brewing pre season when Vlado Vares was persuaded to leave last year's grand finalists St Albans to try and harness a very talented squad of soccer players into a championship winning team. Five consecutive home wins was one genuine cause for optimism, as was ten different players scoring in the opening seven games. The positives were counter-balanced by a rash of red cards and a poor away record, which suggested the Lions were unlikely to figure in the photo-finish come August. A 3-4 loss at embattled South Dandenong had the Su crew reaching for the ruler and black texta but just a week later a Warren Spink hat-trick was enough to secure a sensational 3-2 win at leader Port Melbourne. Suddenly the self-belief has returned. If they can just find some consistency.

Ditto for **Bentleigh**, who surprised many by making the finals in their debut Premier League season in 1996 and surprised even more by finishing second the following year, scoring an astonishing 75 goals in the process. On that basis, last season's ninth placing (35 goals) was below expectations and with the pre season departure of Nick Van Egmond to South Dandenong it was a question of not dropping any further. Cameron Pino (Carlton) and David Grella (Springvale) have proved to be good acquisitions but the club will need more than Juan Nilo's goals if they are to maintain a position in the top half of the table.

Which is about where **Bulleen** are likely to finish, well clear of the drop but not strong enough to sustain a genuine challenge. Bulleen are the reigning champions and have contested three of the past four grand finals, but critics point to the fact that the men from the Veneto Club have not finished higher than third in the regular season during that period. True to form the club was unbeaten in third place after six matches but coach Gary Cole will have his work cut out catching the early season pacemakers having won just once in their first five home games, and scoring just three times in the process. Home defeats to fellow Italian clubs Fawkner and Melbourne Raiders were considered good enough reasons to question the coach's methods so it may well be that another coaching change is in the air. Danny Grgic (7) continues to score at a rapid rate, so if Vlad Bebic (3) can do likewise then we may yet see a late rally from Bruno Grollo's favorite sons. *Oh, and while we think of it, Anthony Grbac is still giving good service to the club* *(refer SU38, page 17)*

Which, if you discount Preston and Bulleen, leaves us with just two early season title contenders, neither of which has won the Premier League championship!

In contrast to last year's dismal start, when the club lost their first four matches, **Port Melbourne** burst from the blocks with four straight victories, scoring fifteen goals and prompting memories of their legendary 1995 team. Peter Kakos is the star, notching six goals in the opening four games, but the midfield talents of Nick Tsaltas and Eves Heath, the defensive stability of Dean Fak and the blistering speed of John Pappas were also instrumental in the Sharks pulling together an unbeaten ten match run. By this stage Kakos had moved his personal

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NSW Super League Half-Time Round-up.

The Wolfman reports on the ups and downs of the Sydney season so far .....

We have reached the halfway point of the 1999 N.S.W. Super League competition and a clear pattern has emerged as to who will challenge for the title. Sydney's Easter period was again a wet one with three matches postponed due to water logged grounds. Postponed matches could again have an impact on the final standings.

In one of the most open competitions for years there are three teams currently sitting on top of the ladder with 22 points. Blacktown City and Macarthur Rams have a game in hand while Bonnyrigg White Eagles have completed all their 11 matches. Despite starting off slowly, Blacktown City haven't lost since their round four assignment against struggling Central Coast. Brian Brown was appointed coach only a few weeks prior to kick-off after their former mentor Alex Robertson resigned in what can only be considered as rather controversial circumstances. Brown has done well to mould his attacking style on the team and they appear certain to be there when the whips are cracking in the semi finals.

Macarthur Rams are another side who seem certain to extend their season beyond round 22. Helped by a favourable draw (seven of their first eleven games are at Lynwood Park) their squad is chock full of depth and oozes talent. A crowd of over 2,000 flocked to see their round eight clash with Parramatta Eagles. With the local community of Campbelltown right behind them, it augers well for a top three finish. News from down Rams way is that a major new sponsor is set to inject a substantial amount of money into the club while their ambitious committee has set its sight on promotion to the NSL. Their on-field success is largely built around a group of experienced players led by ex-Wolves' Martin Bourke and Rich and Lloyd and ex-Olympic duo Trevor Whidden and Kain Rastall. Why their classy goalkeeper John Crawley isn't playing in the NSL is beyond even the collective thoughts of the Wolfman, Green Rover, Lotus Rover and Co.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles are again pressing for the championship that was denied them in the past two Super League Grand Finals. Ably led by the likeable John Turner, they have turned the Serbian Centre into a graveyard for their opponents and again look set to be there in July. Ex-Wollongong striker Colin Luff has found his scoring boots, Ruben Gomez is still as nippy as ever while a young teenager by the name of Ben Green has forced his way into first grade and has caught the eye of the Wolfman on a couple of occasions.

Super League newcomers Fairfield Bulls are currently in fourth position on 20 points and have surprised even themselves by heading the competition ladder for four weeks. Coached by the canny ex-Socceroo Jinky Joe Watson, the club has recruited well and have the local Assyrian community buzzing with the excitement of a first five finish. In Mathew Borg and Mark Hoenselaars they have uncovered a couple of great forwards who have harvested 15 of the sides 21 goals. With ex-Maroons player Jason Falzon in midfield and the veteran Dragan Pupovac having an exceptional season between the sticks it would take a brave Wolfman to write this team off.

Scanning further down the ladder we spot the usual mid-table suspects fighting for a top five finish. Leichhardt Tigers (17 points) have Arno Bertogna at the helm, Bankstown City Lions (16), who have parted company with former coach Sakib

(continued over)

Lavic and replaced him with veteran player/coach Mile Todoroski and even Canterbury Marrickville (15) all have a conceivable chance of making the top five

Canterbury-Marrickville have two of the best forwards in Nick Bosevski and Jimmy Nikas on their books but with a collective return of just seven goals in three games they really have to extract the digit if the side are to make the finals Parramatta Eagles are next with 13 points from ten matches but have been unable to take more than a solitary point from their six away matches to date The Wolfman can't see the Eagles flying up the ladder if this dreadful away form continues

At the other end of the scale we see the four district clubs of Ryde City (10 points), Sutherland Sharks (8), Eastern Suburbs (7) and Central Coast (7) fighting out for the honour of being 'best of the rest' Ryde City are due to play eight of their remaining eleven games at home

The Wolfman predicts a late season surge from the northern Sydney club who are ably led by the veteran Socceroo Scott Ollerenshaw The Wolfman's favourite club Sutherland are again struggling but have unearthed a rich young talent in 16 year old Kris Karanasis. After scoring the winner against Eastern Suburbs, the pint sized striker was knocked senseless in an under-21 match against Macarthur a week later Write his name in your little black books, as he appears to have the skills necessary to make it at a higher level Eastern Suburbs are still leading their nomadic existence and are yet to make an appearance at their new home ground at Hensley Field, Pagewood. Rumours of player discontent have been emerging with squad members Unal Ogmen, Steve McCombe and Con Sigmas all leaving the camp. Central Coast has slumped badly after starting their season off so well Since February 27th they have suffered a six game losing streak and show no visible sign of improvement

Yes!!! We've changed our address to ←

P O Box 117, Bentleigh, Victoria. 3204

(continued from p 22)

goal tally to eleven NSL clubs take note After ten games the Sharks had moved six points clear at the top and were threatening to run away from the pretenders but were forced to admit defeat in a 2-3 home loss to a persistent Preston With a difficult fixture list in the closing months of the campaign it would not surprise to see them reeled in come August

Their keenest rivals for early season supremacy were **Green Gully** who had the opportunity to stake a claim for top spot when they visited Port A goalkeeping blunder handed the home side a two-goal buffer from which the Cavaliers never fully recovered Expect Ian Dobson's team to be snapping at the heels of Port later in the season however particularly if Daniel Genovesi Zlatko Donev Zdravko Atanasovski and Tony Neceski can continue to score regularly The latest addition to the squad goalkeeper Robert Bran from Springvale is a shrewd signing With ten players finding the net in the opening nine matches it would appear Dobson has plenty of players capable of providing support to the front runners If new signing Sonny Sevin can find form Green Gully may yet find their name on the championship trophy for the first time

Coaching Outs & Ins

Altona Magic	St Albans	Springvale White Eagles
Out Chris Taylor	Out Steve Rastocac	Out Milos Nasic
In Zoran Trajceski	In Vid Horvat	In Bobby McLaughlin

Sunshine	Westvale
Out Anthony Cassar	Out Phil Stubbins
In John Kanesoulis	In Mike Grukalo

.....to be continued!!!!!!

(continued from page 13)

10 000 Croats and possibly 25,000 from North Sydney plus a few assorted corporate hangers-on and Grand Final good-time types. A full house A real occasion And the worst thing is the Spirit supporters There's a lotta expat Poms amongst them but really they're from all over the shop The Croats would be flat out finding someone to hate. They'd have to just get on and support their team"

"Jesus, Davo that sounds bloody terrible It'd be like that one in Brisbane a couple of years ago"

" know a bloody disaster wasn't it?"
"Or ew hell no "

"What Chief?"
"Sorry Davo my mind just wandered back to that Socceroos match against Iran in '97"

Davo grimaced Chief that was awful, wasn't it? I thought I asked you never to mention that match never wanna go through that again

"Too right It was way too close for comfort Thank Christ for that bloody little bloke what was his name? Azizi, yeah, Azizi I laughed like a drain afterwards But you know what? It didn't stop people talking about it for days afterwards I couldn't believe it - even here in the tea rooms Damn near made me sick "

"It's a sobering thought"
Yeah. One of the few I've had in recent times I don't want to have any more. Davo, d'ya know what I mean?"

"Yeah but hey! Like I said, it's got Buckley's chance It'll be South Melbourne v Sydney United Trust me"
"Yeah alright But wait a minute Davo Even if you're right how confident are you about their supporters? Is there any chance they'll just behave themselves? Last thing I want is to run a report on the game"

"When was the last time you looked skywards and saw a pig?"
"Just after the last time Collingwood won the GF, as a matter of fact"

"You bloody mongrel But there you go, then, nothing to worry about"
"Right, then. I think I could just about book a spot on the front page, Kosovo permitting. We'll send a bloody squadron of photographers to Olympic Park, or the SFS or wherever the hell else they play it. I'll pick the most damaging photo they can come up with, preferably one with a bit of claret flowing and foreign flags in abundance, and I'll give it the treatment. I can see a headline now. Something like 'And they call this the beautiful game It'll look great"

Davo chuckled. "Too bad. And they're always telling us they're gonna grow the game, huh?"
"We'll fix 'em Davo. We'll fix 'em"

"Good We can count on it. I've only got one more thing to say"
"What's that?"

"C'arn the Pies!"
"Go the Demons!"

Click.

Davo clips his mobile phone onto his belt and grins. Probable page one, with a by-line - again! And all for simply reporting the facts. Too easy. But suddenly, a slight frown creases his brow What if just for once... what if they do let him down? Then the frown disappears and the smug grin returns. Nah....no way. It couldn't happen...

.. ..Could it????

Interview with a Formeroo

This month Greg Stock speaks with Frank Hearn.

The arrival of Frank Hearn in Sydney in March 1956 was big sports news in a rapidly developing sporting city. The 'lamkin from Crystal Palace had decided to leave the colder climes of England in search of an adventure in the land down under. Like so many others who came before and after him Frank decided to emigrate and was signed by the equally ambitious Gladesville-Ryde soccer club in Sydney. Gladesville-Ryde in Sydney's north-west were a district club which needed an injection of experience and with a top line footballing pedigree from England he was the ideal choice.

Frank was born in Camden in England and by his late teens he was on the playing roster at Torquay United. A transfer to Northampton Town followed before he finally made his first team debut with Crystal Palace in 1954. The following season he was transfer listed and with the blessing of his club he decided to immigrate to Australia. Only three players in Sydney soccer at the time had any professional experience in England. There was Joe Marston at A.P.A. Lechhardt, Billy Walsh the former Sunderland and Darlington centre half at Hakoah and his teammate Billy Murphy an inside forward at Exeter City. When Frank arrived, it made four high profile English players and Sydney soccer was set to benefit.

caught up with Frank at his home in Sydney's eastern suburbs and started by asking him how it all started in coming to Australia.

FH: "I was on the transfer list and I thought I would come down here. There was only Billy Walsh and he came from Sunderland and Billy Murphy from Exeter City. I had an offer to go to Los Angeles and play football in America but I thought I'd give Australia a try and haven't looked back since. Johnny Thompson was the guy who bought me out here because Johnny was playing for Gladesville then. There were players at Gladesville like Rex Foster, Tommy Rowles, Bede Greenfield, and Mary Walker. I was only there for six months before the federation started and I went to Hakoah."

GS: When you transferred there you were one of the highest priced players at that point in Australian soccer. What was it like?

FH: "When I signed with Hakoah I got a thousand pounds and a brand new car. The supporters were all mainly Jewish and they had a lot of clothing factories. You could always go down to their factories and pick up a couple of shirts or a coat and you still got your wages. The top teams then were always Hakoah, AP.A and St. George Budapest. I never thought I'd see the day when there was no Hakoah club in this country."

GS: Where did you go from there?

FH: "After I left Hakoah and I went with the Australian side down to Melbourne and I decided to stay and play with Wilhelmina. I had six months there and had a good time playing at the Melbourne Showground. My wife wasn't real happy down there so we came back here and then I went to Pan Hellenic."

GS: What were the major differences with training in England and Australia?

FH: "Over there and I don't know why it was never bought in here. We'd go in (to the club) for injuries. Tuesday we'd have a practise match. Wednesday and Thursday were training and Friday a small for half an hour and then we'd have sprints. Sprints and nothing else where you would run on your toes not flat footed and I've never seen that out here."

GS: And in Europe?

FH: "There was France and Belgium and when I went to Holland on tour they were more or less turning pro. There was no money there. America was just starting up their pro football in Los Angeles. I was 23 when I came out here. I went back with my wife and played a few games for non league Romford. The skills were there but the pace is a one step faster. When your playing full time your one step faster. We used to train hard and we had some good coaches out here."

GS: Plenty of highly talented European players followed your footsteps into the early 1960's. Players like Alick Jeffrey.

FH: "He broke his leg for England against France and his club said go out to Australia and get yourself fit. So he came out here and liked it. He went back and played with Doncaster and bought a pub and suffered a car accident. He had a stocky build. There was Danny Clapton and he played for England against Juventus. Gordon Nutt and he were in television out here for a while but he played for Coventry and Arsenal. Erwin Ninaus played for the Austrian B-side after being out here. Joe Galeczka went back and played for Poland. Phil Botallico, Archie Blue, John Giacommetti, Willie Rutherford and his brother Harry and Danny Walsh. Keith Jones who played for Wales and Doug Holden played for Bolton. There were a lot of personalities in those days."

GS: And of course the high-profile Len Quested. What were your thoughts on him?

FH: "Lenny was always a smart player. He played the old English way, getting the ball push it around and tackle hard. I always remembered what Lenny Quested said to me years ago, give me an Aussie defence and a pommy forward line and it always made a lot of sense in them days. You could always have a joke with Lenny. His nickname was Bugs as in Bugs Bunny. What I liked about him was he had ten Australian boys around him as he was the only overseas player in the side and he got them all working hard and they won through to the final. He was one player who other players in England said should have won a full cap. He got a B cap against Turkey but should have got a full cap. You could be drinking with him the night before but he would still give it to you, always very fair though."

GS: And you coached his son Gary at Auburn.

FH: "It's funny how son and father are different. Now Gary was a ball player very quick. Lenny was a ball player but he played the game simple. Get in, push it and run."

GS: You played for Australia against Hearts with Len in 1959.

FH: "Yeah I scored the only goal for Australia that day. We played Hearts and they had won the Scottish league by eight clear points. They had a few Scottish internationals playing for them Murray, Wilkie Bauld, and Hamilton. It was a good game and a good crowd."

Frank Hearn retired from playing in 1964 after stints with Gladesville-Ryde, Wilhelmina, Hakoah and Pan Hellenic. He went on to start a lengthy coaching career with Pan Hellenic, Auburn, Prague and Hakoah where his ability to relate to his players often saw him as a popular figure in the soccer scene of the 1960s.

These days Frank has settled in the eastern suburbs of Sydney where he has retired from all things soccer. That is apart from a regular kick around on a Sunday morning in the Rose Bay area. Formeroos like Roy Blitz and Archie Blue are regulars as are soccer identities Harry Michaels, Charlie Perkins and David Hill.

Frank in his own words 'captains both sides' but its more of a reflection of Franks love for the game that now into his 80s he still feels the need to don the boots and to have a run with some of the lads that made this game famous many moons ago.

Just enough space to add a few of the missing O.O.B's from our very well received WYC history in Sc 38, leaving just Dennis Ivanac (1981) and John Carter (995). Our thanks to John Punshon, who's new book we are thrilled to unashamedly plug in Bulletin Board.

1981: Ahearn 13/12/62, Tredinnick 23/03/62, Hunter 10/8/61, Woods 04/04/63, Little 14/04/62, Patikas 18/10/63, Colosso 02/11/61
1983: Jones 20/09/63, Lucata 28/02/64, Glockner 05/09/64,
1987: Hughes 19/04/69, Hristodoulou 07/08/67, Kulscar 08/08/67, Saad 01/12/67, Reynolds 29/09/67, Grbac 30/03/69, Koch 26/06/68, Anastasiads 13/08/68
1995: Pogliacomo 03/05/76, Enes 22/08/75, Vrkic 31/08/76, Middleby 09/08/75, Polkan 12/09/75, Menilo 22/08/75, Skoko 10/12/75, Angelovski 16/07/76

A Shark In
Another Adelaide Update

Since March 18, 1999, Adelaide football fans have been daring to believe. Daring to think that after Perth and Northern Spirit FC bravely, and successfully led the charge of the mainstream football clubs in the A-League, that it might soon be our turn. We could turn out with 15,000 other football fanatics to the nations greatest football only stadium, singing, chanting, drinking and being a part of a club that would be for all South Australians, not just those of Greek or Italian descent. We could once again challenge to be the footballing powerhouse of Australia, both on the field, but more importantly off it as well. We dreamed of a team playing in the states colours, of people talking about it over smoko, of full page articles in the Advertiser and of challenging the crowd supremacy of Glory and Spirit. We dreamed of a fully professional club, led by some ex-Europeans returning to put something back into Aussie club football, complemented by the best young talent that South Australia could provide.

March 18 was the day the back page of the Advertiser screamed "UNITED WE STAND Consortium Bids to Replace Sharks!" and revealed that the man behind the highly successful Adelaide 36ers basketball team, Peter Emery, was heading a consortium of cashed-up football mad businessmen who obviously had twigged to what every Aussie football fan in Adelaide had known for years. Take the best bits of the Glory and Spirit franchises, get them playing in red, yellow and blue, market the shit out of it, and it could be nay would be the biggest football club in the land.

The Advertiser even had us believe that it could all happen as early as next season, if the financially crippled Adelaide Sharks folded/dropped back in to the SA State League. Naturally we were devastated that a leading progressive club that had done so much in its 20+ years in the national league to harness the potential of Adelaide as a footballing Mecca not! - were in more crap than the early explorers and had to appoint an administrator to even finish out the season, but hey, here was the opportunity for all of SA to get behind a football team and build a genuine footballing culture in the cit of churches to fill the gap between our local sides and the Socceroo a culture that would go beyond watching Premier League or Serie A and going to the MCG every 4 years.

Peter Emery took his plan all around the city. Basil Scarsella gave it two thumbs up, on the proviso that SocAus would not grant a third licence to a team from Adelaide, meaning that one had to fold or drop down.

The SASF was stoked, as here was an opportunity for it to fill and showcase the Hindmarsh Stadium in all of its glory at least fifteen times a year. Since the Adelaide Rams folded (the NRL team with average crowds of maybe 8000), the only tenants were Ad City and the Sharks (avg of around 4500 and 2300 respectively) - although there's nothing respectable about those numbers! With costly renovations for the Olympics taking place, and not all of it paid for by the SA and Federal governments, the SASF need a tenant like Glory or Spirit to avoid the tag of building a white elephant. The local clubs were happy as this would provide a viable local point for kids to aspire to, and where better to get involved and learn the game than at the local club. This also meant that the local junior associations were also ecstatic.

And we - the punter, the dreamers, the football lovers who have been disenfranchised and never really felt welcome at the mono-ethnic mentality of City and the Sharks, were even prepared to accept the name 'United' in return for a team that had supporters that spoke in English, and actually sung! United seemed fair enough, why not cash in on the global juggernaut of football that is MUFC. A small price to pay methinks.

Unfortunately, revelations have surfaced that places the dream in doubt. At a creditors meeting on April 28, the administrator recommended to the members that the club either be wound up, or drop out of the A-League to compete in the local league. With debts of $700,000 plus, there was just no conceivable way forward. Two bids were tabled for the buying of the club. The first was from millionaire businessman, and until recently 51% stakeholder in the club, Con Makris. His offer of $250,000 would see the creditors receive approximately 20 cents in the dollar, and his money would seemingly ensure the clubs short-term survival. However, on previous form (ie last season), the club would probably just plod along, the same as always, with the same problems and baggage as before (ie its Greek only image with the public).

Sheep's Clothing
from Kasey Puyenbroek

Here however is the part that has the average football fan shaking his/her head wishing that they had $10M so they could do it right. A bid was tabled for $300,000 for the club by a group of businessmen, called ominously 'Friends of West Adelaide'. The principal people behind this group were Distinctive Homes, a former major sponsor of the club, and run by a Greek businessman whose name escapes me, and one Peter Emery. Great!! Just what we wanted to hear. To try to enter the national league with a club based on the Glory and Spirit FC's is a great idea, but I distinctly remember reading about Glory FC boss Nick Tana saying, when he was promoting his fledgling club, that his only realistic option was to start afresh. He wanted a club with no ethnic baggage. He could have started with an established WA club, and poured money into them, but I think time has shown that he, and Remo Nogarotto of Spirit FC both took the right option of beginning from scratch.

Now that Mr Emery has shown his true colours (Blue and White) methinks,) most people that I've talked to who were getting seriously keen for it and looking forward to having a club for us - that we could support and feel welcome at, have indicated that they will not support a re badged West Adelaide/Adelaide Sharks. With his major public support fading faster than Elton John's mascara after two hours on stage, what possible reason could he have for tying Adelaide United to the Sharks? (Peter Emery, not Elton John!) All of the good players have already left, and most are still owed money regardless of where they are now. This would just be a debt taken on for no conceivable reason, when SocAus are bound by the players contracts to take up any lapsed contracts due to a club dying. The club doesn't even have any real assets. Their home base of Thebarton Oval is leased from the West Torrens council.

We are left pondering what could possibly be acquired for the new team from the old Sharks. The only two things that I could think of were firstly the same old problems that haunted the Sharks in their previous pursuit of wider community acceptance, and secondly perhaps the new club would be after the money received if Stan Lazandis gets sold on from West Ham, although this move is obviously not a thing to be banking on. I can't for the life of me see what Peter Emery thinks to gain by aligning himself with this group. In one fell swoop he has alienated the majority of fans and - I'm flabbergasted and confused as to what the mentality behind this is, not to mention disappointed.

So once again this turn of events leaves the average Aussie football fan in Adelaide in limbo again. We go and watch Ad City if we want to watch top notch football, but there is no passion there, it's not the same as having your own club. I've never cried for Adelaide City, but I have shed tears of joy for Para Hills, my local club, and the other kind for the Socceroos. We watch on telly in envy as Glory fans and Spirit fans set the league alight with their fevered support, waiting only for the day when we can do the same.

The SASF is rumoured to be investigating the possibility of running a club in a mirror image of the Adelaide Crows (who are run by the SANFL), but those of us with an ear to the ground wonder where the money will come from to buy players, market it like the Glory/Spirit models and be fully professional. Rupert Murdoch's name is sometimes bandied about, but - don't think I'll be holding my breath for that one, as he seems to be busy with rugby league. Nick Tana has said that he'd like to run a Glory-esque operation in Adelaide (he's sure, as we all are, that it'd work), but I reckon that he's got his hands full with one team at the moment.

It looks as though the status quo is to be maintained for a while longer. I'm optimistic that it can't last forever though. Market forces, and club football in Australia have been given a much overdue kick in the pants and things are slowly and inevitably heading in the right direction. It seems only a matter of time before a team for all South Australians appears in the A-League, it just appears that this one may not be it.

Oh well, looks like its back to bed for me to continue dreaming about my Adelaide Aces (or whatever they are called) lifting the Ericsson Cup in front of 20,000 at Hindmarsh.

Dear Studs Up...

Sean Brown replies to last months death notice!!

After reading of the death of a fan, I thought I would tell you of my wounding. First a dig at South Melbourne.

I recently attended the Carlton v Hellas match at Olympic park. I am not a member of Carlton, however I have only missed two of their home games, as a non-member the only place to sit was with the Hellas supporters, which I think is too much of a punishment just for simply not being a member. I know I should be a member, but the game was played on a Sunday night when Moomba was winding up, therefore there were many people in and around the city at the time doing other things. What if a family or a group of friends saw the soccer fans heading towards O.park, discovered there was a derby going on and decided to take a look at soccer in Oz?

They would have bought their tickets and sat, as I had to, amongst the Heltas supporters, this is what worries me. Mr & Mrs average take their family to an Oz soccer game for the first time, and I ask, at what point would they have left? Would it have been when Advance Australia fair was being played and there was a group of young men singing what I can only assume was the Greek national anthem? Or would it have been when one of the young men thought he was lost at sea? Or would it have been at any time during the match when a foreign nationality was celebrated?

I must admit that the behaviour of the fans was not that bad, but I can compare it to times when it was a lot worse, an interested onlooker not in the soccer habit would have compared it to what the have seen at say an AFL match, and I dare say they won't be returning to see an oz soccer. In future when there is a derby game, and it is a Carlton Home game it may be better to reserve a portion of the ground for Hellas supporters exclusively, as not to scare the shit out of Mr & Mrs Non-soccer.

People may say what has this got to do with the club, they way I see it is that SMH have no purpose other than being a Greek club, for the Greek community, with Greek colours, Greek administration and Greek players (of course if you are good enough they'll pretend that you are Greek, ie. Lozanovski takes the free kick and Orlic heads the ball into the back of the net and it is a triumph for Greece, work that out!).

There are things that could be done to stay Greek, yet move away from being Greek, it may be as simple as adding another colour to the strip to remove it from the Greek flag, or a complete change of strip, logo or identity. With the attendance at the Glory game mid-week it may be a little hard to convince Hellas to change, but what they are doing is depriving others of the chance to see quality soccer in this country. Nearly 12,000 at a first V third game may be a good achievement but it is certainly not full potential.

Enough of Hellas, now on to Carlton. I am one of the few people who actually enjoyed going to watch soccer or football at Optus oval; I was a Fitzroy fan in the AFL and remember warmly when Fitzroy used to play there. At a guess I would say that the majority of CSC fans would be from the northern suburbs, as I am, Olympic park is a shocking place to get to from the north, punt rd or past Southgate, which is the least slowest, not the quickest, way, although when Citilink opens it will be quicker but at a cost of around $350, one way, will it be worth it? Optus Oval is easily accessed and there is always free parking in the many side streets or on Royal Pde itself, not at Olympic Park, it is $7 there, *I said $7*. So I attend the derby game, I leave one and a half hours before kick off (instead of 45 minutes), I get there 10 minutes before game time (instead of 20-30 minutes), I pay $7 for parking (normally free) I then discover that I have to pay an extra $5 to sit with other CSC supporters (which would also be free at Optus), which I declined to do having just spent $7 on parking, I then didn't see any programs for sale, I then sat in a foreign country, and then Carlton lost. Bring back last season. Perhaps, if Carlton are to stay at Olympic park next season, membership to the CSC could include a discount on parking and a discount on Citilink when travelling to and from games (which could be possible with E-tags and it could be done in return for some Citilink signage at the ground.)

Thus I have been wounded by soccer of late, but the remedy is at hand, the world youth cup and a chance to see Bresciano, Colosimo and Grella all on the ground at once.

That is it. Thank you for your time

From Sean.

Dear SU (sort of?!?)

Okay, so this ain't exactly Oz related, but we're sure you can relate to it..... Thanks to Steve Tamblin (England), via the Internet.

Ray Stanton wrote that a number of Conference fixtures scheduled for Trophy semi-final day April 10th have been postponed, two of which matches don't involve Trophy semi-finalists. Furthermore, Forest Green have been ordered by the Conference to play their previously postponed home league fixture against Morecambe on Sunday 18th April, twenty-fours hours after their semi-final second leg at home to St. Albans.

Last season, the Easter floods left many clubs with late postponements and pleas to play these games after the official end of the season fell on deaf ears. This left some clubs with ludicrous end of season schedules, notably Leek Town (five games in seven days?) and Redditch United (eleven in eighteen?).

It seems to be quite a recent phenomenon that non-league clubs are expected to ape their professional counterparts and all finish on the same day. This is all very well for full-time players without daytime jobs to worry about, but in the non-league world it's ludicrous. And it's not just in the Conference and the level 6 and 7 leagues.

Banbury's end of season program includes two hectic weeks of 4 games in 8 days because the Hellenic League insist on a May 1 finish, despite United's continued involvement in three cup competitions. The Hellenic League and the Oxfordshire FA managed between them to waste 3 midweek dates in March that United had set aside for cup matches, each claiming that their competition took precedence over the other and then United's league fixture at Shortwood on March 13 was postponed after heavy overnight rain.

When the clubs asked to play the game on May 5, they were refused. This combination of stubbornness and amateurism of the worst sort infuriates official, players and fans alike and frequently scuppers a club's chances of honours.

Does anyone else have a similar tale?

Steve T.

Did That REALLY Happen?!?!?!?

MARCH

14/28 - The Melbourne Knights match programme for the Canberra/Newcastle matches contains a review of Studs Up. And we score a 7.5/10 (thanks for the plug Dave!)

28 - The Hellenic Athletic Soccer Club of South Australia Inc. (also known as the Adelaide Sharks) are placed into voluntary receivership. Mr Bruce Mulvaney of the insolvency firm Bruce Mulvaney & Co. is appointed official administrator of the club.

30 - Friends of West Adelaide issue a statement to supporters advising that $50,000 in donations are being sought in an effort to "*preserve 50 years of tradition, history and the good name and reputation of the Greek community so that our children and grand children can be proud of the achievements accomplished by Greek people.*"

31 - Carlton announces that entry to their home match against Perth Glory on April 11 will be free. 2,887 eventually take up the offer. In brighter news, the club also announces that John Lunny (a partner in a CBD law firm) has joined the board. And making a re-appearance at board level is ex-director Stephen Hargitay.

APRIL

1 - Zoran Matic predicts that Adelaide City will need 45 points to make the finals. The Zebras will eventually finish the season in sixth place with... 45 points! Zoran also says Ad City will experiment with Friday night matches next season. Hmmm...

4 - Adelaide City and Socceroo legend Alex Tobin plays his 400th NSL match, appropriately in a derby against the Sharks **(see table)**

11 - A defining moment in the race for the minor premiership as Sydney United defeat South Melbourne 1-0 courtesy of the man whose sideburns defy description. And congratulations to David Barrett who played his 300th NSL match in a winning team.

In another defining moment, referee Con Dionis completes an NSL match without producing a single yellow card. Followers of Con's card-filled career will understand why the previous sentence has been included on this page. (For the record, Ad City beat Newcastle 1-0). Curiously, Dionis is missing from action in the final two NSL rounds. Perhaps his superiors also suspect something was amiss.

Did he REALLY say that?

"After Labbozzetta and Scheinflug left I mulled a few things over and decided it wasn't in my best interests at the moment to be available for the national side."

Mark Schwarzer, April 1999

See you at the Expo....

June 11-13, RAS Exhibition Complex Homebush, Sydney

13 - Craig Foster, along with seven other Crystal Palace players, is offered a free transfer by the club.

14 - Mark Viduka extends his outstanding start with Celtic with two more goals, this time against Hearts in a 4-2 away win, taking his personal tally to eight from six matches since he joined the Parkhead club.

16 - The Melbourne Herald Sun reports that Con Boutsianis will stand trial on charges of armed robbery and false imprisonment, after the Office of Public Prosecutions overturned a magistrate's finding that there was insufficient evidence for the charges to originally proceed in December last year. The charges relate to an armed hold-up in January 1998.

17 - Matthew Hall reports from London that Mark Schwarzer has retired from international football until SocAus shows a more sympathetic view of the club v country debate.

20 - Headline in The Australian: Boarich agrees valuable move to Old Trafford

21 - Headline in The Australian: No credence in Old Trafford speculation.

The AFL refuses to shift the Richmond – Melbourne clash from the MCG on Friday July 16, meaning the Socceroos will now play Manchester United on Thursday July 15.

25 - The Ericsson Cup winds up in dramatic fashion with Adelaide City pipping Sydney Olympic for the last finals place. Off the field, the highlight is the Northern Spirit fans' effort to conduct a 'Beach Party' at Marconi.

MAY

4 - Carlton announce that Eddie Krncevic will not be coaching the Blues next season after the two parties failed to reach an agreement over terms for a new contract. And across the Tasman the worst kept secret in Oceania soccer is officially revealed when The Auckland Kings hold their first major press conference.

The Tobin Files

DOB: 3.11.65

NSL debut: for Adelaide City, v Sth Melbourne (L0-1) aged 18 y 181 d

Appearances (goals) - all for Ad City

1984	16	(0)
1985	12	(0)
1986	25	(0)
1987	24	(0)
1988	20	(1)
1989	21	(0)
89/90	26	(0)
90/91	27	(0)
91/92	30	(3)
92/93	30	(2)
93/94	31	(5)
94/95	26	(2)
95/96	34	(5)
96/97	29	(4)
97/98	25	(2)
98/99*	27	(3)
TOTAL*	403	(27)

* as at 27/4/99

BULLETIN

Three Points and a Hangover is what we all dream of waking up with and to be honest this Northern Spirit fans' offering is just the thing to tuck up with. Featuring an interview with Robbie Slater and loads of very creative writing, it's superb value at $2. Look for it at Cafe Beaut in Ridge St or send $3.00 to:

Three Points, PO Box 367, Alexandria, NSW, 2015

or e-mail **threepoints@bigfoot.com**

(Please make cheques payable to Tancred Fergus)

Sitter! continues to lead the way when it comes to highlighting administrative deficiencies in Kiwiland but it also continues to give a serious insight into the game over there and make us laugh at the same time despite that result last October.

(Hey Bruce, have you finished watching *that* video yet?!?). And the build-up to their Mexican sojourn is becoming quite legendary. And of course there is the Sean Douglas column, which this month looks at why the standard player's contract runs to 163 pages!

To get hold of your copy send $5:00 Oz to:

Sitter! 11 Thames St, Hamilton NZ.

This month sees the release of John Punshon's new offering, ***"Australia 1922 – 1998"***. It is being distributed by Soccer Bookshelf in the UK as a part of their *"Soccer: The International Lineups and Statistics Series"* and contains the line-ups, results and scorers for every game ever played by an Australian senior team.

It's only available from Soccer Bookshelf at

72 St Peters Avenue, Cleethorpes, DN35 8HU, England

or by e-mail to **mike@soccbook.demon.co.uk**

This is what you've always wanted, no NEEDED in your collection so it's well worth the effort of chasing up a copy!! We're trying to get hold of some to flog at the Expo but we'll have to get back to you on that one.

BOARD

...So this is it, the last issue of TFP for the time being - a sad day indeed ! I won't harp on about the reasons - you can read them all yourself in the middle pages. I'm glad I did it, but will do it better next time. There was never one definitive reason for quitting, but a number of smaller ones.

For the record, finance was never a problem, but it would have been easier if more people had lived up to their word when it came to advertising, sponsorship and buying subscriptions.

It never ceases to amaze me how many people expect something for nothing these days. I'm sure that I'm not exaggerating when I say that every month outside Suncorp, whilst selling TFP, at least one person will ask, "Are they free ?"

I don't know where some of these people get their values, but they come from a different planet to the one I was brought up on.

I don't mind giving the odd copy of TFP away, as long as I know that the recipient is going to read it, and, hopefully feel inclined to buy the next one. The other side of the coin, is that once you give one copy away, people begin to expect it for free regularly after that. There will be a number of people reading this who, in thirty issues, have never paid for a copy - yet are all too keen to get on the phone if their "freebie" is a day late. And I'm struggling to convince myself that they were worth it.

If TFP does start up again, the number of "giveaways" will be a bit more tightly controlled.

I will stop short of blaming those people for this being the last issue, but am I so out of touch with reality these days that asking people to part with $2 every month to help us cover costs is just not the done thing in 1999 ?

Tony Moran
Sportsprint
P O Box 478
Bulimba 4171
Queensland
April 1999

Out Next Month

The Un official Beginners Guide to the

History of the Australian National Soccer League

ONLY $10:00 ea.

Chock full of tables stats, and tidbits, from 1977 to present day, we give you all that we can give in this concise guide to the NSL.

All the finalists (cups as well!), as well as the leading goal scorers in the one handy booklet makes this a must for all good collectionsIII

(Studs Up readers who order before June 3 can pick one up for a bargain basement price of $7.50)

Available in June through Studs Up or from Santo at:

Melbourne Sports Books

9 Elizabeth Street Melbourne (upstairs) Ph (03) 96211211

Or Grab One From Our Stall When You Come To See Us At The Expo!!!!